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The formation of Tropical Storm Vernon marked the start of the western Pacific tropical cyclone season. This is the second year in a row that the first tropical cyclone of the season did not develop until June, and the first time since JTWC was established that two consecutive seasons have started so late in the year.

Tropical Storm Vernon was very similar to its 1983 season opening counterpart, Tropical Storm Sarah, in that it formed in the South China Sea during June, developed into a weak Tropical Storm, and made landfall in central Vietnam.

The disturbance which was to develop into Tropical Storm Vernon was first detected early on 7 June as an area of poorly organized convection on the eastern end of the monsoon trough in the central South China Sea. The disturbance drifted slowly to the northwest and consolidated during the next 24 hours. At 0411Z on the 8th, a TCFA was issued based on improved organization of the convection and synoptic data which indicated the disturbance had a closed surface circulation with winds of 15 to 25 kt (8 to 13 m/s). Vernon continued moving to the northwest at 5 kt

(9 km/hr) and at 0000Z on the 9th the first warning was issued based on numerous 25 to 30 kt (13 to 15 m/s) ship reports. The MSLP at this time was near 999 mb.

Over the next 18 hours Vernon's forward speed doubled to 10 kt (19 km/hr) as the storm intensified, attaining tropical storm strength between 0000Z and 0600Z on the 9th and reaching a maximum intensity of \\ 40 kt (21 m/s) approximately 6 to 9 hours later (Figure 3-01-1).

Vietnamese authorities reported that Vernon caused flooding of rice, sweet potato, and sesame crops in the Quang Nam-Danang province. No loss of life or other significant property damage was reported.

After reaching maximum intensity, Vernon moved in a more westerly direction at 12 kt (22 km/hr), and began to weaken as the storm entered a strong shearing environment. Vernon continued toward the coast of Vietnam, making landfall just north of Da Nang (WMO 48855) at approximately 101200Z. By this time most of Vernon's convection was sheared to the west of the low-level circulation. Vernon quickly dissipated over land.

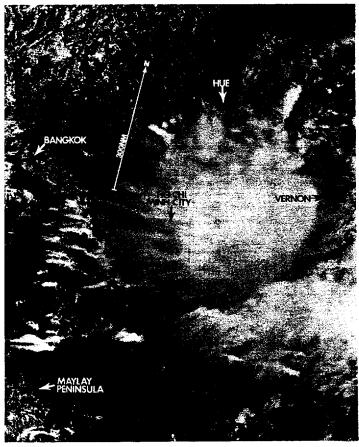


Figure 3-01-1. Tropical Storm Vernon with exposed low-level circulation as it attains tropical storm intensity (090316Z June DMSP visual imagery).